

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, April 15, 2005*

## CRIME IN DC DECLINES 18 PERCENT DURING 2004; REPORTED CRIME AT LOWEST LEVEL IN 4 DECADES

The number of serious crimes reported in the District of Columbia declined by nearly 18 percent during 2004, reaching its lowest level in the four decades for which comparable data are available. According to MPDC figures reported to the FBI, there were 33,252 serious (or "Index") crimes reported citywide during 2004. That compares with 40,546 Index crimes reported in 2003, a reduction of just under 18 percent. Last year's crime level was half of what it was a decade ago, when there were more than 67,600 offenses reported. There were decreases in all eight Index crime categories last year. Among violent crimes, homicides, forcible rapes and robberies each declined by 20 percent between 2003 and 2004; aggravated assaults fell 14 percent. Among property crimes, arson offenses plummeted 35 percent, larceny/thefts were down 21 percent and burglaries fell 15 percent. After increasing sharply over the three previous years, reported auto thefts declined by 15 percent in 2004.

① Official 2004 Index crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and the District as a whole are available at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543315.asp>

① The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program collects statistics from law enforcement agencies across the country on an annual basis. There are eight crimes that make up the UCR's "Crime Index." Details at:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucrquest.htm>

## CHIEF RAMSEY OUTLINES MPDC'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY06

In testimony this week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, Chief Ramsey outlined the MPDC's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006, which begins October 1, 2005. The Chief told the Committee that the \$377 million budget supports the Department's major priorities of neighborhood patrols, crime fighting and community policing. "I believe that the FY06 budget, while fiscally prudent and responsible, will enable the MPDC to continue the strong record of crime reduction that we have achieved over the past few years," he said. The proposed budget will continue to fund the Department's fully authorized strength of 3,800 sworn members, and it supports efforts to put more of those officers in operational assignments by fully funding a civilianization program begun this fiscal year. The MPDC has identified 83 administrative and support positions currently held by sworn police officers that are in the process of being transitioned to civilian employees, allowing those sworn members to be returned to operational assignments. The budget also funds critical support services, officer safety initiatives and specialized needs such as language access, victim assistance and community outreach. The budget does reduce the Department's overtime funding by \$3 million in local funds, continuing a trend of reduced overtime spending in recent years. Pointing out that overtime is still a necessary and prudent expenses for police agencies—it pays for time officers spend in court following arrests, as well as certain special enforcement operations—Ramsey urged the Council not to cut the MPDC's overtime budget even further.

① Read the Chief's budget statement at:

[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,556713,mpdcNav\\_GID,1543.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,556713,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp)

① Review the Mayor's complete FY06 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan at:

[http://www.dc.gov/mayor/budget\\_2006/index.shtm>Budget and Key Priorities](http://www.dc.gov/mayor/budget_2006/index.shtm>Budget and Key Priorities)

## MPDC ADDS TWO MARKED VEHICLES TO PHOTO RADAR FLEET

In its continuing efforts to put the brakes on speeding in the District, the MPDC has added two new vehicles to its photo radar fleet: marked police cruisers that are equipped with digital camera technology. The two new marked vehicles are in addition to eight unmarked photo radar vehicles used by the MPDC for enforcement of aggressive speeding. The vehicles are deployed, Monday through Saturday, in designated enforcement zones across the District. The units are operated by specially trained, radar-certified MPDC officers working in an overtime capacity. The Department also has five stationary photo radar speeding reduction cameras located in Northeast and Northwest DC. "We have said all along that our Department would use a variety of approaches—mobile and stationary cameras, marked and unmarked vehicles—to change the aggressive driving behavior of some motorists on our roadways," said Chief Ramsey. The new marked vehicles are equipped with digital cameras, as opposed to the traditional 35-mm film used in the unmarked vehicles. The digital technology is designed to be less costly and more efficient than the 35-mm cameras. Four of the five stationary cameras also use digital technology.

## WITH NATIONALS HOME SEASON UNDER WAY, DC AGENCIES ANNOUNCE PARKING PLAN

In the week leading up to the Washington Nationals' successful home opener, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), in conjunction with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the MPDC, announced a two-part curbside parking strategy for the area around RFK Stadium. From April through October 2005, during Washington Nationals and DC United games, the agencies will be strictly enforcing the plan, which is designed to give parking priority to residents of the neighborhoods near the stadium. Vehicles registered within certain Ward 6 and Ward 7 neighborhoods adjacent to RFK Stadium must obtain a special RFK Stadium Parking Permit from the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission. Permits are available at the RFK Stadium Administrative Office on the 4th Floor of the Stadium, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Any vehicle without a special RFK Stadium Parking Permit or a valid visitor's pass issued by the MPDC in these areas will be ticketed and/or towed during a DC United or Nationals game. Sports fans traveling to games at RFK Stadium are encouraged to take the Metro.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Fallen MPDC Heroes Engraved on Memorial.** On April 20, at 10 am, the names of MPDC Sergeants John Ahsley and Clifton Rife III will be engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square in Northwest DC. Both Rife and Ahsley died in the line of duty, just days apart during the spring of 2004. For details on the Memorial, visit [www.nleomf.com](http://www.nleomf.com).

**"Chatting with the Chief" on Tuesday.** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from 6:40-7 pm on Tuesday, April 19, during his monthly interview segment on WHUR-96.3 FM radio.

**MPDC Website Update.** The MPDC has migrated its website to a new database-driven platform that is consistent with the rest of the DC.GOV site. The web address ([www.mpdcc.gov](http://www.mpdcc.gov)) and look-and-feel of the site remain that same. But if you have bookmarked individual pages on the MPDC site, you may need to update your "favorites." Also, if you notice any dead links or other problems with the upgraded site, please e-mail [kaylin.junge@dc.gov](mailto:kaylin.junge@dc.gov).

① Read the complete news release at:  
<http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3159>

① For detailed information on the photo radar speeding reduction program, including enforcement zone locations, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547970,mpdcNav\\_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547970,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp)

① Read the full news release at:  
[http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,626055,ddotNav\\_GID,1610.asp](http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,626055,ddotNav_GID,1610.asp)

① Access a map (in PDF) showing the areas covered by the parking plan at:  
[http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/frames.asp?doc=/ddot/lib/ddot/news\\_room/2005/april/noparking.pdf](http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/frames.asp?doc=/ddot/lib/ddot/news_room/2005/april/noparking.pdf)

① For information on visitor parking permits issued by the MPDC, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548145,mpdcNav\\_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548145,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp)

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	<b>as of 4/15/05</b>
◆ 2005: 53	
◆ 2004: 51	
◆ % Change: +3.9%	
◆ Closure Rate: 49.1% (26 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>week end. 4/9/05</b>
◆ Total: 1,005	
◆ Drugs: 151	
◆ Weapons: 23	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 9	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 41	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	<b>week end. 4/9/05</b>
◆ Arrests: 58	
◆ Curfew Violations: 25	
◆ Truants: 99	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	<b>as of 4/13/05</b>
◆ April: 57	
◆ 2005 Total: 759	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>as of 4/15/05</b>
◆ 2005: 14	
◆ 2004: 18	
◆ % Change: -22.2%	

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**